

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W

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R 260726Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6774

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 2390

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID PO PT AS

SUBJ: GOI DENIES PLANS TO SEIZE PORTUGUESE TIMOR

REF: A. JAKARTA 2285 B. CANBERRA 1212

BEGIN SUMMARY: FONDEPT SPOKESMAN AND CABINET SECRETARY SUDHARMONO BOTH ISSUED DENIALS FEB 25 IN RESPONSE TO AUSTRALIAN PRESS REPORTS THAT INDONESIA PLANS TO SEIZE PORTUGUESE TIMOR BY FORCE AND DISCLAIMED AGGRESSIVE OR COLONIALIST DESIGNS BY GOI. SUDHARMONO EQUIVOCATED, HOWEVER, BY SAYING THAT NEITHER DOES INDONESIA WISH TO BE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION OR COLONIALISM, THUS PRESERVING POSSIBILITY OF LATER CLAIM THAT A TAKEOVER IN TIMOR JUSTIFIED IN SELF DEFENSE. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS REPORTS FEB 25, 26. END SUMMARY.

1. ANSWERING PRESS QUERIES AFTER LIMITED CABINET SESSION FEB 25, SUDHARMONO DENIED REPORTS IN FOREIGN PRESS, CITING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, THAT INDONESIA PLANNING TO SEND TROOPS INTO PORTUGUESE TIMOR IN NEAR FUTURE
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(REF B). SUDHARMONO SAID INDONESIA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY

WISH TO CARRY OUT AGGRESSION OR COLONIZATION; NOR DOES IT WISH TO BE THE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION OR COLONIALISM.

2. HE SAID INDONESIA SUPPORTS DECOLONIZATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR; IF PEOPLE THERE LATER WISH TO JOIN INDONESIA, AND IF THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH INDONESIAN CONSTITUTION, THEY WILL BE WELCOMED "WITH OPEN ARMS."

3. MEANWHILE FONDEPT SPOKESMAN ISSUED STATEMENT THAT INDONESIA HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED IT HAS NO TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS OR INTENTIONS TO SEIZE PORTUGUESE TIMOR BY FORCE, AS ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED IN FOREIGN PRESS.

4. STATEMENT NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE TIMOR INTO INDONESIA "POSSIBLY CAUSED BY FEARS FOR THEIR SAFETY AS RESULT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR." HOWEVER, STATEMENT SAID, INDONESIA MUST ACCEPT REFUGEES FOR "HUMANITARIAN REASONS," ALTHOUGH PROBLEM OF TIMOR IS "INTERNAL" AND INDONESIA WILL NOT "INTERFERE."

5. COMMENT: SUDHARMON'S EQUIVOCAL STATEMENT THAT WHILE INDONESIA HAS NO AGGRESSIVE COLONIALIST DESIGNS ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR, NEITHER DOES IT WISH TO BE VICTIM OF AGGRESSION OR COLONIALISM PRESERVES POSSIBILITY FOR ATER CLAIM THAT INDONESIAN TAKEOVER JUSTIFIED FOR REASONS OF SELF DEFENSE. FONDEP STATEMENT CONCERNING REFUGEES REFERRED TO REPORT IN OFFICIAL ANTARA-- EVIDENTLY GOI INSPIRED--THAT 300 REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE TIMOR HAVE FLED TO INDONESIA AS RESULT OF INTIMIDATION AND TERROR BY LEFTIST/COMMUNIST PRO-INDEPENDENCE FORCES (REF A), SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO RAN STORY FEB 26 ABOUT \$14 MILLION GOI ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN INDONESIAN TIMOR--WITH LOCAL MILITARY COMMAND CLERLY IDENTIFIED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR 100-KILOMETER STRETCH LEADING TO PORTUGUESE TIMOR BORDER. THIS STORY (FEATURED ON FRONT PAGE OF ARMY-BACKED AND LEADING TIMOR-BAITER BERITA YUDHA DIRECTLY OPPOSITE SUDHARMONO STATEMENT) MIGHT BE ANOTHER SIGN OF MILITARY CONTINGENCY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, PORTUGUESE TIMOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JAKART02390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750067-0879
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750212/aaaaakaw.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 JAKARTA 2285, 75 CANBERRA 1212
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOI DENIES PLANS TO SEIZE PORTUGUESE TIMOR
TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO, PT, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006